

Metabolic emergencies presenting in the Neonatal Period and Early Infancy

Checklist:

✓ Use this checklist to assist in ensuring adequate therapy and monitoring are in place prior to and during transfer.

Identify and Consult:

- Identify possible inherited metabolic disease** (eg: antenatal diagnosis; family history; consanguinity; baby in first few days / weeks of life, poor feeding/sleepy, hypoglycaemic, high lactate, metabolic acidosis, abnormal liver function)
- Conference call with KIDS and Birmingham Children's Hospital Metabolic Consultant (0300 200 1100)**
- Identify Time Critical Nature** – prepare for possible local team transfer (in discussion with KIDS and Metabolic Consultant)

Airway and Breathing:

- Support airway/administer O₂ as required
- Monitor respiratory rate and SpO₂
- Intubate and ventilate as required (ie GCS<8)

Circulation:

- Obtain 2 points of venous access
- Use 0.9% saline boluses to support circulation
- Consider vasoactive agents after 40-60 ml/kg
- Monitor heart rate, blood pressure, perfusion, pulses, urine output

To access the specialist drugs required for treatment of hyperammonaemia - Call your local hospital on call pharmacist, who should call Birmingham Children's Hospital Pharmacy for assistance on 0121 333 9999 (bleep via switchboard)

Other Management:

- Stop feeds and administer dextrose as per [BIMDG guideline](#) – in discussion with KIDS/BCH Metabolic Consultant
- Monitor serum glucose and blood gases frequently including lactate
- Measure serum ammonia - send urgently
- Measure LFTs, U&Es, coagulation screen
- Start emergency drugs as per [BIMDG guideline](#) - in discussion with KIDS/BCH Metabolic Consultant

Further actions:

- Take sample for x-match (may require haemofiltration)
- Administer emergency drugs as per [BIMDG guideline](#) - discuss with KIDS/BCH Metabolic Consultant
- Do not wait for specialist drugs or lab results to be available if this will delay patient transfer – discuss with KIDS/BCH Metabolic Consultant

Treat as time critical – do not delay transfer whilst instituting other measures other than those which are immediately life saving!